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A SECOND
LETTER
TO THE
COMMONS
OF THE
City of DUBLIN.

PROV. Chap. xi. Vers. xiv.

Where no Council is, the People fall; but in the multitude of Councillors there is safety.



DUBLIN: Printed in the Year, 1743:

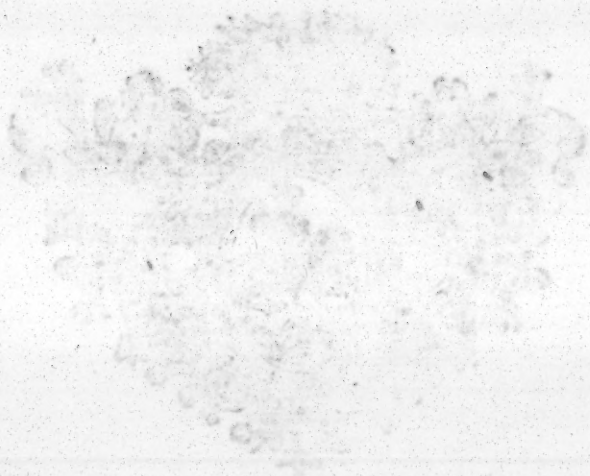
LETTER

COMMONS

OF THE

CHAMBERLAIN

07-2015



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A SECOND
 L E T T E R
 TO THE
 Commons of the City of Dublin.

GENTLEMEN,

I MOST sincerely Congratulate you on the continuance of that Spirit of *Liberty*, which I recommended to you in my former Letter: I cannot flatter myself that what I wrote did your *Party* any *Service*; you were then in the prosecution of the *Designs* you are yet pursuing, and which you have Reason to Hope for Success in, if you do not grow Negligent, and I shou'd not have troubled you with a *Second Letter*, had I not thought it necessary to *Vindicate* you, from the *Aspersions* which have been thrown on your Conduct, either by your Enemies, or by People entirely ignorant of your Designs.

YOUR Adversaries have not thought proper to make any Answer, to what has been published in your Defence: Rather than Appeal to the *Publick*, they chuse to defame you in *private* Clubbs, where their Jokes pass for *Wit*, and their *Invectives* for *Reason*, with their Flatterers and Dependents, and to

misrepresent your Proceedings to Men, whose high Station give you no Opportunities of informing with the true *State* of your *Case*.

You are derided by the Name of *Patriots*, and abused by the Name of *Tories*: You are accused of being inspired with a *Spirit of Faction*, and of being entirely *led* by a few Men, who raise all this Disturbance on purpose to be bought off; (as it has happened to other Patriots in other Countries:) You are accused of taking from your Chief *Magistrate* the *Revenues* to which he has an undoubted Right: Of *Disturbing* the City's *Peace*, and assuming to yourselves Powers and Prerogatives unknown to your Predecessors; and *on you* is laid all the Blame, if the City wants *Water*, its *Works Repairs*, or even its *Streets* want *cleaning*; and you may (on more Accounts than one) thank Heaven for the Plenty we enjoy; for, had the last proved a bad Harvest, I should not wonder if even the dearnets of Bread was laid to your Account.

As to the Name of *Patriots* and *Tories*, as your Adversaries are pleased to join them together, I am contented they make the most of 'em: And that the World shou'd believe (what I really think is Fact) that *they* are neither the *One* nor the *Other*; tho' how it is possible for a *Whig* to be *No-Patriot*, is what I shall leave with them to Explain.

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As to *Faction*, I must beg leave to borrow from a
* justly celebrated Writer, the *Characteristicks* which
distinguishes *Party* from *Faction*.

“ *By Party* (says he) is meant a National Di-
“ *vision of Opinions concerning the Form and Me-*
“ *thods of Governing, for the Benefit of the whole*
“ *Community, according to the different Judgments*
“ *of Men; and Faction I conceive to be a Set of Men*
“ *armed with Power, and acting upon no one Prin-*
“ *cipal of Party, or any Notion of Publick Good,*
“ *but to preserve and share the Spoil among them-*
“ *selves.*

LET it, by these Rules, be try'd, where the Spi-
rit of *Faction* is; *whether* in a Set of Men, who meet
together, and determine *beforehand* among themselves,
what shall be done at Council; and thereby exclude,
from any Share in the Government, those of their
Brethren who are not Members of their *Club*, or, in a
Number of Men, who are *united* purely by a Desire
of serving the *whole*, without Exclusion of any, and
in Designs to which they are not actuated by any
private Interest? Whether your *Leaders* (if you
have any) are actuated by *private* or *publick* Interest,
I will not take upon me to determine? I hope you
will have always *Wisdom* enough to consider what
is

* *Author of the Dissertation on Parties.*

† *Craftsman*, Numb. 673.

is *proposed* to you, and not the Persons who *propose* it.

THE *Case* of the *Mayor's Revenues*, I take to be this: King *Charles* the Second did Grant to the Citizens of *Dublin*, 500 *l.* *per Ann.* in Consideration of the great Losses they had suffered in Defence of his *Royal* and *Pious* Father. Now this Sum has, since that Time, been usually granted to the *Lord Mayors*: It was once refused, and this Refusal came from the Board of Aldermen, (the Lord Mayor not being, perhaps a Member of the then ruling *Club*,) the Affair was contested before the *Privy Council*, who Determined, That this 500 *l.* belonged to the *City*, not to the *Mayor*; nor will it at all follow, because the *City* have usually given 500 *l.* to the *Lord Mayor*, ever since King *Charles's* Grant, that the King did intend it for that *Use*: And this is certain, that the 500 *l.* was always paid by the *City Treasurer*, on the Grant of the *City*, at such *Times* as in the several Grants are specified; not by the *Treasurer of Ireland*. And (what sets this Matter beyond Dispute) the *Lord Mayor*, on the *City's* Grant, receives this 500 *l.* — neat, without any deduction of the *Fees* paid for that Sum by the *City*,

THIS Sum being then intirely at your Disposal, you ought to be careful how you dispose of so considerable a Part of your *Revenue*: I am assured your Intention never was to take it away from the *Lord Mayor*,

Mayor, but only to *Postpone* your Granting it, or at least, *Part of it*, until he had (by his *good Conduct*, during his Administration) made it appear, That he was Intituled to this *Favour*, and that this Proceeding is both *Reasonable and Just*; will, I think, appear from the following *Reasons*.

First, THAT one Part of the *Revenues* of the *Lord Mayor* arrises from his Profits by the Office of *Treasurer*, which is intirely (by the *New Rules*) in the Disposal of the *Aldermen* and never given him until he has served the Mayoralty; so that the *Mayor* is, for the Revenues of this Office, which amount to about 200 l. a *Dependent* on the *Board*; and, whilst the *Commons* have nothing to give, it may be a prevailing Argument with the *Mayor*, to oblige the *Aldermen*, preferably to the *Commons*.

Secondly, THAT since the *Augmentation* of 400 l. to the *Lord Mayor* has been discontinued, and since the 150 l. *per Ann.* has been granted to them in lieu of what they used to get by the disposal of *City Employments*; the *Lord Mayor* and Board of *Aldermen* have nothing, besides this Sallery of 500 l. to expect from the *Commons*. and Consequently no other *Motive* of Interest to keep fair with them, When the City used to grant *Four hundred Pounds Augmentation* to the *Mayor*, it was not, till he was out of Office, and upon an Affidavit, that he had not purchased the Office of *Sheriff* or of *Alderman*, nor had taken any
Money

Money for his *Recommendation* of any Person to *those* *Places*. If any *Place of Profit* became vacant during his Year, it was his Interest to have it fill'd up, because if it lay open till his Successor's Time, *he* Lost the Benefit of the Sale; it was therefore *his Interest* to Court the *Commons*, to admit the Person with whom he had made the Bargain; but *at present*, he may, if he should think proper, take Money for his *Recommendation* of any Person to the Office of *Alderman or Sheriff*, he may keep *Places vacant*, unless the Commons accept of *whomever* the Board pleases, and he must *incline* to the Pleasures of the *Board*, because he has a *Dependance* on them for 200*l* — which in the Minds of most Men, even Men of Wealth and Station, may possibly weigh something. — Not to mention, that it is *natural* for Men to be *bias'd in favour* of that *Body* of which they are, and must continue *Members*.

Lastly. THAT it is no *Injury* to any Magistrate to be *Dependant* on the Good-will of his *Fellow Citizens*; their *Favour* is the truest *Test* of his *Merit*, and he who Cares not for the Affections and Esteem of his *Fellow Citizens*, or dares not trust to them, is unworthy of their *Favour*.

It is true, that, a Motion for *not granting* the 500*l*. to the Lord Mayor till he was *out of Office*, was made in your House and was unfortunately dropt, but the *Circumstances*, when that Motion was brought in, makes
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the ill Success of it *Excusable*, the *Aldermen* had, that Day, *Elected a Lord Mayor*, and refus'd to Elect, for *Sheriff* the Person whom, according to Custom, he had *nominated*; an Indignity of which they can give no Instance for many Years past, Excepting *One*, when the *Aldermen* refus'd to Elect a *Man* of the most considerable Figure and Worth in the Trading part of the City, who was Nominated by a Presbyterian *Lord Mayor*: In this Circumstance it was fear'd, that your agreeing to the Motion would have been interpreted as your joyning with the Board in Disgusting a Man of Worth from Serving the Mayoralty next Year; and we find, that, tho' this was your *Reason* for not coming into such a Resolution at that Time, yet your Enemies suggest, That you are the Cause why A—n H—— has *declined* the Office of *Lord Mayor*; an Imputation which that Gentleman, I am sure, is ready at all Times to clear you of.

HOWEVER it be, the ill Success of that Motion did you no small *diservice* in the World: It was Reported, that you were *Divided* amongst yourselves, and incapable of *pursuing*, with any Resolution, the *Ends* you had proposed; and this gave such high Spirit to your Opposers, that they thought it the properest Opportunity of making new Shackles for you; they *threatned*, to leave you *without Magistrates*; they *insisted*, That no Man would undergo the *fatigues of the Mayoralty*, unless he was *before hand* assured of getting the usual *Sallary*, or that, if you refused to

Insure it, the Lord Mayors would no more reside in Dawson-street-House, nor indulge you any longer in Cakes and Wine ; and the Board did actually postpone the Election of a Mayor, until they tryed the Success of a Petition to grant beforehand, to the Person whom they would Elect, the Sallary, which never was before granted till the Mayor had been sometime actually in Office : I am ashamed to say it, there were above a Score of you who Voted for passing that Petition ; but it did not succeed, ; you have it still in your Power to Grant or Refuse the 500 l. as you think best ; and tis a Power which I hope no body will ever again attempt to take out of your Hands.

I need not Remind you that this 500 l. is not the most considerable Part of the Mayor's Revenues, he has Independent of you, above Twelve Hundred Pounds.

As to *disturbing the Peace*, that is an Inconveniency which must necessary arise, from any Efforts towards a Change in a Constitution, as Water must be disturb'd in order to clear its Channel, it becomes a Crime, only, when there is no Occasion for a Change, or when that Change can be brought about by other means ; now in order to Judge whether this Inconveniency ought to be laid to your Charge, it is necessary to Examine what those Changes are which you have attempted, and if it be found that they are Expedient, the Disturbance, which may arise in the Prosecution of them, ought, and

and I believe will be laid to the *Charge* of those who *oppose* you.

YOUR first *Contention* was about your Rights of preparing *Matters for the publick Good*: It was for a long Time the *Custom*, and look'd on as a *Law*, the Foundation of which was thought a Presumption to enquire into, *that* your whole *Authority* consisted in putting a *Negative*, when you thought it expedient, on the *Resolutions of the Aldermen*; *they* would not permit you to make any *Alterations* in the *Orders*, which *they* made on the several Petitions laid before the Assembly; *you* were to *Allow* or *Reject* those *Orders*, in the way they were sent down to you, (after the Manner that the House of Lords act with Relation to the Money Bills:) You thought *this* hard, and were determined to *try* on what these *Pre-tensions* were founded, and you sent (on an Assembly-Day) a *Petition* to the *Board* for their Concurrence; the *Board*, you may remember, would not *consider* it, *they* told you, it was their Custom never to Read any Petitions but what were lodg'd a *Day before*, in the *Town Clerks Office*; this *you* judg'd a down right *Denial of your Right*, since as *you* did not meet, as the Board does, *the Day before the Assembly*, to Consult *what Business* was to be done; you had no Opportunity of preferring Petitions, unless *you* were allowed to send them on *the Assembly-Day*: This *Dispute* took up all your *Time* that Day, and no *Business* was done; and for a whole Week there was no *Pro-*

vision made for the *Pipe-Water, Scavengers, &c.* At the End of which time, you were again Called together, and the *Aldermen*, after Recommending to you the *Dispatch* of the necessary *Business* of the City, did, (on the *Oppinion* of our *Recorder*, That you had a *Right* at all Times to prefer *Petitions* to the *Assembly*) Declare, they were ready to Receive and Consider any *Petition* you had to send them.

THIS Right being then allow'd you, you made Use of it in the *propereſt* Manner, by propoſing in your firſt *Petition*, certain *Regulations* for the better carrying on the *City Business*; one of thoſe *Regulations* was judged by the Board an Infringment of *their Prerogative*, to promote or retard the publick Good, as they think moſt convenient; it was to enable *Committees* to tranſact the *Business* committed to their Care, even in the *Absence* of the *Lord Mayor* or *Sheriffs*: Now tho' it be difficult to ſay in what it would derogate, either from the Dignity or the Power of *thoſe Gentlemen* if they were even excluded any Votes on *Committees* (which was not intended) ſince all *Acts* of *Committees* muſt be confirmed by *Acts* of *Assembly*, before they are of any Force; yet you found them as tenacious of the Cuſtom of *their* being made neceſſary *Parts* of *Committees*, (ſo that in their *Absence* nothing can be done) as if their whole Dignity and Power depended on that *Circumſtance*: The Board inſiſted at firſt on the *Illegality* of any *Committee* where the *Lord Mayor* and *Sheriffs* were not *Parts*; but they

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cou'd produce *no Law* in their Behalf, nor any *Reason* to set aside the *Precedents* of the *Committee of the Ballast-Office*, of which the *Lord Mayor* and *Sheriffs* are no Part, and of *other Committees*, of which they have been excluded, or at least not Named as Persons *Sine quibus non*; they then insisted on the *Custom* of our *Predecessors*, who they say were *wiser* and *better* than *we* are: What the *Predecessors* of the *Board* were, I will not take upon me to Determine, but I hope I may be allowed to say, That the *Predecessors* of the *Commons* were not *wiser* and *better* than you, had they been *so*, they would not have suffered the *Rights* of their Fellow Citizens, and their own, to have been *taken away*: They wou'd not have left you the *trouble of Contesting them* at this Day; but how *Wise* or *Good* soever they may have been, it is no discredit to you, that you endeavour to surpass them in *Wisdom* and *Goodness*, and you have the better Opportunity of shewing that you *do so*, if the Board be determin'd to Act by direct *contrary* Maxims,

THAT the *necessary Presence* of the *Lord Mayor* and *Sheriffs* on *Committees*, is highly *inconvenient* you have only to look back on the *Proceedings* of your *Committees*, to be *convinced* of; there are now (as I am inform'd) above *Forty Committees* subsisting; How impossible it is for a *Lord Mayor* to *Attend* them, and yet find Time for the other *Duties* of his Office, must be obvious to every Body. He is often necessitated to *Summons* three or four, or more *Committees*

mittees at *one* Hour, and at *one* Place ; and those, amongst you, who have been Diligent enow to give your Attendance, must have been Disgusted and tired with *Waiting*, sometimes whole Hours, before the Committee on which you were, was called, and must have felt the *Inconveniency* which the *Hurry* of too much Business, the *shortness* of Time, and the *Perplexity* of not knowing what Business to begin with, have necessarily caused to the Chief Magistrate, as well as to yourselves.

AMONG this Number of Committees there are *Two*, which (tho' of great Importance, and long standing) have seldom or never Met ; *One*, the Committee for considering how to *retrench the City Expence*, and to *lessen its Debt* ; the *Other*, the Committee for preparing a new *Modell of Government for this City*, (of which even the Board feels the Necessity) to be laid before the Parliament : You have often Soliscited the Lord Mayors to call them, and their constant Answers have been *Promises*, to employ their first *Leasure* in them, and Excuses from *want of Time*, that nothing had as yet been done : This *Excuse* is the best the *Board* can give why they refuse *now* to appoint a Committee to consider a Proposal (laid before you) for encreasing the Revenue, of the *City Customs* : For I do not suspect, *that* the principal Reason of their Refusal is *because* the Proposal came from *One* of your Members who is not much in *their Esteem*, from his having (in direct Opposition to their Measures) steadfastly adhered

hered to the Cause of *Liberty*, both in his *own Corporation*, and in the *Common Council*: Or, *because* the Board will not (even for the Common Good) recede *for Once*, from the Right they have acquired by a long Prescription, of disposing of Employments, to none but themselves, or their own Relations and Dependents.

YOUR next Struggle was about your *Right of inspecting the Accounts* of the City, the long Arrears of *Rent* due by your Tenants, claim'd your Attention; you *directed* the Receiver General to lay those Accounts before you; the Aldermen *forbid* him to comply with those Directions, but consented they might be left in the *Tbolfel Office*, where, if you could have spared the most important Hours of the Day from your necessary Trades and Employments, you might, *One or Two of you at a Time*, have perus'd them; you *refus'd* to take them in that Way, and this occasion'd a *Protest* of some of your Members, which since, it has been publish'd to the great Honour and Reputation of the *Protestors*, I shall take no further Notice of.

Y O U shortly after this desired that the *Accounts of the City should be Printed* before they Received the Sanction of the Assembly, that each of you might have a Copy, and an opportunity of Examining them; a Petition from you, for that Purpose has been now *three Quarters of a Year* before the Board: I hope you will insist on getting a proper *Answer* to it; it is true, that

that the Board has the same undoubted *Right* of Rejecting any *Petition* that comes from you, as you have of Rejecting any that comes from them; and that it is not, perhaps, very Decent for *One* Houle to demand from the *Other* the Reasons of their Refusal; but, if it be true, that the Board (notwithstanding the Concession abovementioned) have never once passed any *Petition* that came from you (except that one about Regulations, which they so much alter'd, that it became in a great Measure their own,) you have good Reason to believe, that they *Repent* of their *Concession*, and that they are determin'd to make it of *no Use*, by giving a *Constant Refusal* to whatever comes from you. In this case you may *Reject* whatever *Petitions* come from *them*, until you have got some Authentick Satisfaction of your *Right* which is of Importance enough, to justify you from the *Inconveniency* which, by this Method, may attend the *Obstruction* of the City *Business*.

T H E R E are two *Points* under your Consideration, which, as they are of much greater *Importance*, so are they of greater *difficulty* than any yet mentioned, it is your *Rights* to the *Election* of *Aldermen*, and to the *Government* of the *Blue-Coat-Hospital*.

T H E *Remonstrance* lately Publish'd by one of your Members, has made it evident, that all your *Charters* are silent with Relation to the *Aldermen*, till the one granted by King *Charles I.* in which they
are

are said to have been *Elected*, *time out of mind*, and *from time to time*, by the *Mayor, Bailiffs, Commons, and Citizens*. It is plain from *this*, that they must have been Originally Constituted by the *Citizens*, to *whom* the Power of *Chusing* a *Mayor* and other Officers, and of making what *By-Laws* they thought Necessary for their own Government, was originally granted; now it is hard to conceive, that the *Citizens* should have invested *Four and twenty Men* with such Powers, as they had even before the *New Rules*, and given them at the same Time the Power to *Elect* themselves: If they did make any such *By-Law*, I may (with Reverence be it spoke of our Dread *Predecessors*) say, they were actuated by a very different Spirit than that of *Wisdom* and *Goodness*, and it is the Opinion of many *Men*, who are better versed in the foundation of the *Law* of *Nature*, and in the *Laws* of the *Land*, than I pretend to be, that such a *Law* (if there was one) was neither *just* nor *legal*; "because *no* Men have " a Right to give away *for ever*, the Rights and Liberties of *their Successors*;" and because to make a *By-Law* of any Corporation *valid*, "It, must, *they say*, " be subordinate to the *Laws* of the *Land*, and must be " for the *Common Good* of the whole Body Corporate." Now I will venture to say, that this *Custom*, of the Board's *Electing* their own Members, is *not* for the *Common Good* of the whole Body, but on the contrary, is highly Derogatory both to the *Honour* and *Well-being* of this Corporation.

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IF a People can derive any *Honour* from the Figure or Merit of the Persons who Rule over them, it can be only, when those *Rulers* are their *Creatures*: A Man in Wooden Shoes may indeed triumph in the *Glory and Power* of his *Grand Monarch*; but a *Briton*, who has a Notion of what *true Glory* is, Triumphs in *his own Liberty*, and in the *Effects* of it, the Opulence, *Grandure* and Power of his Country; to him the *Tinsel Ornaments* of *Place* are of no *Value*, but as they are conferr'd by those who are best Judges of the Merits of those who wear them: In this Case, they reflect Honours back again on the Donor: Now, allowing that the present *Set* of *Aldermen* are Men of the very best *Understanding*, *Virtue* and *Riches*, in the whole City, I cannot see how the *Citizens* reap any *Honour* (tho' they may possibly reap Advantage) from it, because they have not had the Merit of Chusing them, and that for any Thing in *their Power*, the *Aldermen* might have been Ignorant wicked mean Persons; that they are *not Degenerated* to such, is a Phænomenon, which scarce any thing besides the good Providence of GOD can account for; for it is hard to imagine, how *Power*, lodg'd in the Hands of a *few* (who Elect themselves) shou'd not descend to the worst of Mankind. If we consider that all Men, even the Best, are fond of Power, and that there is no Society so small, but that some *one* or *more* in it will endeavour to Rule it; now this will caule *Division*, and whatever Side gets the *Majority*, will endeavour

your

avour to keep *it*, which can never be done but by Electing (in any Vacancy) such a Person, who will come into the Schemes and Measures of that *Majority*: *Merit* may possibly be somewhat Rewarded, but *Dependency* more; Men must be had who will do as they are bid, and *the Man* who shews he has too much *Spirit*, to Purchase any Place by Flattery or Cringes, to any Tool in Power, and *Sense* enough to see through the little Schemes of the Faction by which he is Elected: In short, *the Man* who is best Qualified for the Place must certainly be excluded, and the Society from *Bad* at first, will naturally grow *Worse*.

It may indeed be objected that, the *Approbation* to be given by the *Privy-Council* to the Election of our *Lord Mayors* and *Sheriffs* must be a Check on the Board, ever sufficient to prevent any Mischeif of this Kind; the *Necessity* of such an *Approbation* will, I own, *prevent* the Election of a Man of Infamous Character, but it will not hinder the Majority of a Board from setting aside a *Man* who may be best *Qualify'd* for the Office, either of *Sheriff* or *Alderman*, if thole very *Qualifications* should in their Opinion prevail from Concurring with the Faction then in Power.

THE more Popular an Election, the more *Advantageous* it must be to the People, and the more *Honourable*

ble to the Person Elected, because that every Election is a Presumption of some valuable Qualities, in the *Elected*, which intitled *him* to the favour of the Electors, and it is Impossible to conceive, for Example, that any man can be *Elected* for a County, or a large City, without his having, at least the Reputation of, *Property, Power, Sense or Virtue*, the only things which can enable him to get Votes; but a Man who is *Elected* by *twenty four* Men, may be *Elected* without any one of *these*, nay the Presumption lies of his Possessing none of *them*, because his most effectual way to be *Elected* is, by Flattery and Courtship to a small Number, or perhaps one *single Man*, who may have the whole Corporation in his Hands, as is the lamentable Case of many Corporations.

Now if it be for the *Honour* and *well-being* of the City, that the Magistrates should be Elected, or at least approv'd of, by the Citizens, I have made it, I think, *Evident*, how much it Concerns *you* to pursue this *Point*, and you have this further Motive to it, that, as in all Cases in which the *Publick* is concern'd, your own *private Advantage*, as well as *that* of every individual Citizen, is involved: You cannot all of you be *Aldermen*, but were the *Right of Election* in you, *your* Favour would be courted, and *your* Acquaintance sought by *every Man* who expected to have a *Place* at the Board, which wou'd then indeed be *Honourable*, and wou'd become the Object of the *Ambition*

Ambition of Men of the greatest *Merit*, all of whom desire places of *Honour and Power*, whilst they are to be obtain'd by *Reputation and Merit*, and not by cringing and flattering one or a few Men in Power.

HOWEVER *clear* your *Right* may be, to the *Election of Aldermen*, as well as all other Officers, not mentioned in the *New Rules* I am far from flattering you with *Hopes* that you will *easily succeed*, the Aldermen have, certainly in their Favour, a *Prescription of thirty Years*, and the Manner of Election, before the late King's Reiga, since which Time their Election have not been Enter'd on the Rolls, is very dark, or at least, *tho'* it be certain *that*, *before* that Time, the *Elected Aldermen* was *proclaimed* in the Commons, and, by a Deputation from your House, *introduced* to the Board (which implies an *Approbation* of such Elections) yet, *this* may be difficult to *prove*, or perhaps if *proved*, it may be *Doubtful*, whether such would be *Evidence* in *Law*; however, as Lawyers differ in *Opinion* about this, it is *by that* uncertain which way a *Court of Justice* wou'd *Determine*: *This* then is a *Matter of Debate*, a *Point of Law*, which is to be *Argued*; and if the *Right* be of the Importance, which I think I have shewn *it to be*, it is very well worth *Contesting*; it is worth every good Citizen's while to *contribute* towards having it cleared, and the more, as it is very *probable* that the *Monday Books* (which you have not had permission to inspect, and

and which if you Apply for in a *legal Way*, the *King's Bench* will Order you the *Inspection* of) may furnish you with more *Proofs* of your *Right*, than you yet have found upon a bare Examination of the *Rolls* of your *Acts*.

As to the *Government* of the *Blue-Coat-Hospital*, it is yours by *Charter*, and *Charters* are stubborn things, they will not yield to the *Wills* or *Passions* of Men ; by your *Charter* you are *Governors*, and it was not in the *Power*, had it been in the *Will* of your *Predecessors* to give it away to other Men ; but, in Fact, they never did give it away, they did Once elect *Sub-governors*, but gave them no *Power of Succession*, and whatever good End the admitting Strangers to share in your Councils may have answered, I do not scruple to declare, That the *Act* was *Illegal*, and that you may Recover your *Right* as soon as you please; this *Hospital* was Erected for your Service, and your own Poor are the Persons most Intituled to your Charity.

If the *Intention* of Corporations be to encourage Industry, by excluding Strangers from exercising those *Trades* to which each Freeman only has a *Right*, the *Preference* of the *Hospital* ought to be given the *Sons of Freemen* ; it is no Hardship that the Children of menial Servants should be Educated to follow the Profession of their Fathers, and in reality when a Foot-
man's

man's Son is admitted into *your Hospital*, to the Exclusion of a *Freeman's*, the latter is obliged to be a *menial Servant* in Place of *the former*. It's insisted That if *all* of you were *Governors*, the Hospital could not be so well *Regulated* as it is by a *fewer Number* : But this Argument would *prove* (what it is design'd perhaps to prove) That it were better *you* had likewise *no share* in the Government of the City, and cannot prevail with you, whilst you have any *Spirit* or *Resentment* left you.

I am,

GENTLEMEN,

Your most humble Servant,

A CITIZEN

JULY, the 18th.
1743.

